

**The continuing spread of *Phyllonorycter platani* (Staudinger)  
(Lep: Gracillariidae) — a first record for VC12**

Ever since Maitland Emmet discovered the first British example of this distinctive leaf-mining species in central London in October 1990 (*Ent. Rec.*, **103**: 1), it has continued to spread though the Home Counties and into the West Country and East Anglia.

The annual Microlepidoptera Reviews in this journal record the course of its invasion. It had been found in 1991 in the neighbouring vice-counties of Surrey (VC 17) and Berkshire (VC 22). In South Hampshire (VC 11) it was discovered in Southampton in 1998. It was only a matter of time before it was located in VC 12 and I am pleased to report its discovery here on 22 September 2002 at Farnborough (OS grid reference SU 866553), which I assume is the first record for this Vice-County. Parking under some plane trees at the local DIY superstore I happened to glance up and see examples of these large and distinctive mines.

I then searched the plane trees along the main high street in Fleet and was pleased to find further examples on 22 September. These had not been there the previous year.

I have since found further mines in plane trees around the centre of Farnborough and on a plane tree in a park in Fleet. The most unusual location for this miner was on an isolated tree in the middle of a spiral ramp leading to a multi-storey car park in Fleet. In fact car parks, such as this, may be a good starting point for locating this species. On 29 September, I was parked on level five in such a car park in the centre of Southampton and saw a plane tree outside – closer examination proved it to hold mines of *Phyllonorycter platani*! – ROB EDMUNDS, 32 Woodcote Green, Calthorpe Park, Fleet, Hampshire GU51 4EY (E-mail: r.edmunds@ntlworld.com).

**Two new Irish moths**

During a brief visit to stay with relatives in south Belfast, Co. Antrim (VC 39, O.S. grid reference J 334370), we were able to run our “Skinner” moth trap in their back garden on each of the three nights. Apart from the more expected species the first of these nights, 1 June 2002, produced an Azalea Leaf Miner *Caloptilia azaleella* (Brants). This was followed the next night by a male *Swammerdamia compunctella* (Herrich-Schäffer), confirmed by genital analysis (Dr John Langmaid). In each case the record constitutes the first for the species in Ireland (Ken Bond pers. comm.). – J. B. HIGGOTT and C. A. MACKIE, 42 Valleyview Drive, Rushmere St. Andrew, Suffolk IP4 5UW.

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